

John Rhea to Andrew Jackson, December 18, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN RHEA TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 18, 1818.

Dear General, I rece[i]ved your letter of 14th Novr last, and would have wrote to you in answer thereto, before now but I waited to see the publication of all the proceedings letters etc relative to the Semenole War. I have lately read the publication of them in the Natl Intelligencer—they 28 not yet appearing published by order of the H of Rept. I will for one support your conduct, believing as far as I have read that you have acted for public good.¹ There has been (as you no doubt will have observed, in the public papers,) an attempt made to investigate but failed, the resolution was postponed, indefinitely. I confess I had rather, that every thing that could have been alledged had come out, but it was otherwise ordered.

¹ This paragraph would seem to show that Rhea knew nothing of the so-called “Rhea Letter”, which he was later alleged to have written a year earlier. If he had believed that Jackson was secretly authorized to enter Florida his tone in this letter would probably have been firm.

I have received your letter of the thirtieth of last month—the treaty, I, understand is with the Senate, but you know that I not being one of that part of the Legislature, pursuant to the constitution, can have no knowledge of it—nevertheless I have heard about it, and I suppose you will be informed respecting it—at an early day I presented a resolution respecting, the reservation, made by the treaty with the Creeks, in which a reservation

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for others and you was made—it went to the Committee on private land claims, that Committee have not yet reported I am highly gratified that your health is improving. You have many friends, and I am of opinion, that they will in number increase, in proportion, as your victorious proceedings are understood. You may be assured, that I am highly interested for you, not only on account of friendship, not only on account of your eminent services to our Country, but also because, I was one of those who were instrumental in bringing you into action—remember me to Mrs Jackson

Sincerely your friend